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FLOOR DEBATE

March 26, 2001      LB 657

debate on AM1149 of LB 657.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is this my closing, Mr. President, or...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: It's not your amendment, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: (Laugh) Oh, thank you. The...we have a person in the Chair who is alert. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, that was to transition us from the very serious discussion we were in to the one we have now, which is serious but in a different way. We're considering an amendment that Senator Bourne has offered which would say that in Omaha they cannot get any tobacco tax money distributed to them from the state, unless they first obligate \$7 million per year to be used for this sewer separation project in Omaha, which means work would be done to prevent raw sewage from backing up into the homes of people when there has been a lot of rain or any other happening that caused those sewers to have a lot of water coming into them. The bill itself cannot stand on its own merit, in my view. I heard Senator Tyson say, quite frankly, that he would vote for Senator Bourne's amendment then vote against the bill. I had expressed my wish that people who are not going to support the bill not support the Senator Bourne amendment, which I signed onto because I like the amendment. If people who don't want to seem to be voting against my constituents, Senator Bourne's constituents, Senator Hilgert's constituents, and all those other senators whose districts include people whose sewers back up and their basements are flooded with raw sewage, if you're not going to vote for the bill, then just don't vote for the Bourne amendment; don't vote yea or nay. Then we can get down to what the true issue is, which is LB 657. I have been laying for that bill, waiting for it to come out here so I could do everything I could to savage it. Savage is not a verb, but you know we can do now in America, we can make any noun into a verb that we choose. What my young colleague wants to do is to "Bourne" this bill; I'm making his name a verb; he wants to "Bourne" this bill. That is a process by which you add an amendment to a bill which, although you know it's impossible to bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing, he's going to try to add something that is clean to diminish the amount of uncleanliness. I'm going to watch how people vote on Senator